

The Convention Bill.

A recent act of the Legislature provides that an election shall be held at all designated places for holding elections in the respective counties of the State, at which every male citizen who has resided in the county in which he may offer to vote, six months next preceding the day of election shall have the right to vote for "Convention" or "No Convention," and at the same time, and on the same ticket, to vote for one delegate from each county. Monroe is entitled to one delegate, and if a majority of all the votes given in the State are for "Convention," the law provides that the delegates elected on that day shall assemble in Nashville, to revise and amend the Constitution, on the second Monday in January next.

The law also provides: That all laws requiring test oaths to enable persons to become candidates for office, or requiring judges and clerks of elections to take said oaths, shall not apply to the election to be held under this act.

That the Constitution or form of government which said Convention may adopt, shall not be of any binding force or efficacy until the same has been submitted to and ratified by the people of the State, in such manner and at such time as the Convention shall provide.

That in all cases where the commissioner or sheriff fails or refuses, or from any other cause fails to hold said election, it shall be lawful for any freeholder to hold said election, by summoning as many bystanders as may be necessary to hold said election, all of whom shall be freeholders.

Virginia.

There seems to be no doubt, from the Washington dispatches, that a bill will be passed by Congress, next week, for the admission of Virginia into the Union, and soon thereafter the United States Senators and Representatives will be sworn in, with the exception of Messrs. Booker and McKenzie, whose seats are contested. It is probable the admission of Virginia will be coupled with the condition precedent, that the State Constitution shall not be amended by the present Legislature. Ex-Governor Wells recommends the passage of the amnesty bill.

Convention or no Convention.

The Nashville Union and American, says: The friends of a Convention must bear in mind that the Legislature has not called a Convention nor authorized its convening, but has only submitted the question of Convention or No Convention to the people, to be determined in favor of the one or the other by their votes. It is therefore absolutely necessary for the friends of a Convention not only to vote for the candidate of their choice, but also to have on their tickets in plain words: "For Convention." The returning officers will also bear in mind that it is an essential part of their duty to make due return of the votes for and against Convention, in the same way that they make return of the votes for candidates. The printers of tickets are also especially requested to bear this in mind, and all those who are for a Convention will remember to print it on the ticket.

Southern Steamship Line to Europe.

The Norfolk Board of Trade held a meeting on the 3d inst., and passed resolutions pledging the aid of the Board to the Mediterranean and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, of New York, in establishing a line of Steamships from Norfolk, Port Royal, Brunswick and other Southern ports; approving of the bill to be presented to Congress to incorporate and aid the Company, and praying its passage by both houses, and its approval by the President.

The bill referred to guarantees to this company the conveyance of the mails to Southern States, which bonds are to be deposited in the Postoffice Department; provides for the carriage and proper treatment of immigrants; obtains the privilege of purchasing steamships from the government condemned as useless to the Navy Department, and guarantees that all operations of the company "shall be carried on in steamships built in our own country, out of native material, by our own mechanics, and sailed under our own flag, by our own citizens, and governed by laws enacted by Congress."

The Fifteenth Amendment.

The Union and American says that the Radicals are playing a bold game to secure the ratification of the fifteenth amendment. They are under the impression that one State is lacking to complete the work. Governor Bullock is in Washington laboring with terrible energy to secure this end, and accordingly we find that Mr. Morton, of Indiana, introduced a bill in the United States Senate to provide for the reconstruction of Georgia. It provides for the convening of the old State Legislature, with the conditions that no person shall be admitted to membership who is disqualified under the fourteenth amendment, nor shall any one be excluded therefrom on account of race or color, and then provides that if said Legislature thus organized shall ratify the fifteenth amendment the State shall be admitted to representation in Congress. Now Congress has just as much right to reconstruct the State of Kentucky in order to secure the assent of that State to the ratification of the fifteenth amendment, as it has to reconstruct Georgia.

The first bill to go to the President this session for his signature is one for the relief of a man interested in a patent for the improvement of pistols. It passed the Senate last March, and was put through the House on the 9th, and sent in to the White House in the afternoon.

The President's Message.

President Grant's message is before the people of the country. For the benefit of our readers, who have neither time nor disposition to wade through it, we present a summary.

The President recommends the prompt admission of the Senators and Representatives from Virginia, and expresses the hope that the result of the elections in Mississippi and Texas has been such as will meet the approval of Congress.

He suggests the removal of the tax on incomes, but at a reduced rate, say three per cent., and the tax to expire in three years.

He says the immediate resumption of specie payments is not desirable, though it should be reached at the earliest convenient moment with a fair regard for the interests of the debtor class. He recommends such legislation as will insure a gradual return to specie payments and put an end to fluctuation in the value of currency. To end the fluctuation in currency values, he recommends that authority be given to the Treasury to redeem its own paper at a fixed price whenever presented, and to withhold from circulation all currency so redeemed until sold again for gold. Our national resources, developed and undeveloped, should make our credit the best in the world, and the public debt could be paid in ten years, but it is not desirable that the people should be taxed to pay it in that time.

The message says: "As the United States is the freest (I) of all nations, so too its people, sympathize with all people struggling for liberty and self-government; but while sympathizing it is due to our honor that we should refrain from enforcing views upon unwilling nations and from taking an interested part without invitation in the quarrels between different nations, or between Governments and their subjects. Our course should strictly conform with strict justice and international and local law. Such has been the policy of the administration in dealing with these questions."

Regarding Cuba the President says: "Notwithstanding the warm sympathy entertained for her, the contest at no time assumed the conditions which would warrant the existence of a *de facto* political organization of the insurgents sufficient to justify a recognition of belligerency. The principal is maintained, however, that this nation is its own judge when to accord the rights of belligerency either to a people struggling to free themselves from a government they believe oppressive, or to independent nations at war with each other. The United States have no disposition to interfere with the existing relations of Spain to her colonial possessions."

Sweetwater.

We find the following article in the Knoxville Whig of last Friday which will explain itself:

I am glad to see you making such a valuable paper for the masses. It suits the merchant, the farmer, mechanic, tradesman and all. Every family should take a copy.

If we believe what we read in your paper, your city is improving rapidly. But you must not forget there are two or more live places along the line of railroad in East Tennessee—Sweetwater and Morris-town.

I see your pork men have slaughtered only about 1,000 hogs, while here in our little town and vicinity, Boyd & Vaughn, Browder & Walker have slaughtered about 1,300 and are still slaughtering.

Since our old friend Gen. Vaughn has returned and commenced business here, the trade has been very fine. A great many waggons have visited this market from the near counties in North Carolina and returned home loaded with merchandise from this place. The house General Vaughn is in charge of, has sold as high as \$1,200 worth of goods in one day, while other houses here have had a fine trade also. No town on the line of railroad has a finer trade, from Bristol to Chattanooga, and none is improving faster.

We have a live newspaper here, and our merchants advertise liberally. Old Monroe county is all right. We have nominated James A. Coffin for the Convention who will be elected and make a good member.

We are proud to see Col. Jos. A. Mabry running the race in your county. A truer man to his friends' noble live under the sun, and a more noble, generous hearted man cannot be found. Many poor rebel prisoners can testify to his kind generosity in aiding and lending them money while in Northern prisons. I know that no true soldier should vote against him. He is a man that all have to love when they find him out, and we know old Knox will give him a fine vote. EAST TENNESSEE.

Tennessee Legislature.

Senate.

NASHVILLE, December 10. Mr. Hall introduced a bill repealing the law imposing a tax on billiard tables.

House resolution requesting Congress to reduce the tax on small distilleries, and authorizing the Secretary of State and comptroller not to issue any more bonds to railroad companies, until action is had by the Legislature on the various propositions on that subject now before it, were concurred in.

Senate bills incorporating the towns of Maynardville and Wartrace passed third reading.

House.

Senate bill regulating the common school system passed third reading, after being discussed at some length for some days—ayes 43, nays 26.

The bill offered by the Judiciary Committee to pay Messrs. Ward & Briggs, lessees of the Penitentiary, passed second reading, with an amendment substituting \$132,000 for \$82,000 as the amount first to be paid the lessees, and if they refuse to deliver the Penitentiary property to the State, then the Attorney General of the State shall apply to the courts for a receiver. The bill was made the special order for Monday.

Senate.

NASHVILLE, December 11. Mr. Harris introduced a bill changing the line between Putnam and Overton counties.

House bill requiring the Register of the Land Office for the Mountain District to keep his office at Sparta, passed third reading.

House bill allowing railroads indebted to the State to pay into the treasury any legally issued bond without regard to series, was rejected on second reading.

Senate bill providing that the State shall not be responsible for costs incurred in criminal prosecutions, and in removing prisoners from one jail to another, and authorizing the New York and East Tennessee Iron Company to use the water from Paint Creek passed third reading.

House.

A bill was introduced increasing the punishment of rape by making it a hanging offense.

Mr. Walker introduced a bill repealing section 21 of the act incorporating the Cincinnati and Chattanooga Railroad Company.

Mr. Fleming offered an amendment incorporating the Knoxville Real Estate Association, which was adopted.

House bill incorporating the Louisville and Chattanooga Railroad Company passed second reading.

The bill granting the right of way to the Cincinnati Railroad Company was taken up on third reading, and after a good deal of filibustering, the House adjourned without taking any action on it.

An act to Amend the Criminal Laws of the State.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That all the voters of the State shall be required to vote in the civil district or ward in which they may reside. Any person violating this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than twenty nor more than fifty dollars: Provided, that Sheriffs and other officers holding elections shall be permitted to vote at any ward or precinct in which they may hold an election.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any qualified voter, or the persons attending any election in this State, or for any person attending any fair, race-course or other public assembly of the people, to carry about his person, concealed or otherwise, any pistol, dirk, bowie knife, or Arkansas tooth-pick, or weapon in form, shape or size resembling a bowie knife, or Arkansas tooth-pick, or other deadly or dangerous weapon.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That all persons convicted under the second section of this act, shall be punished by fine of not less than fifty dollars, and by imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That no liquor shops in this State shall be kept open on election days, nor shall any person, on said days, give or sell intoxicating liquors to any person for any purpose at or near an election ground.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That the grand jurors of this State shall have inquisitorial powers concerning the commission of the offenses created by these acts, and may send for witnesses, as in cases of gambling, illegal voting, tipping and offenses now proscribed by law.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Circuit and Criminal Judges of this State to give the above in special charge to the several grand jurors of the courts.

Sec. 7. Be it further enacted, That there shall be no property exempt from execution for fines and costs for this offense: Provided, That if from any cause there should be a failure to hold an election in any civil district or ward, then nothing in this act shall be so construed as to prevent any voter from voting in town, for State or county officers, at the time prescribed by law.

Sec. 8. Be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

PASSED December 1, 1869.
W. O'N. PERKINS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
D. B. THOMAS,
Speaker of the Senate.
A true copy of the original now on file in my office.
A. J. FLETCHER,
Secretary of State.

Tennessee in Washington.

The Washington telegraphic correspondent of the New York Tribune gives us an intimation of what we may expect from Congress relative to our local affairs. The voters of the State having by an overwhelming majority rejected Radicalism, the effort is to be made in Congress to have the State government "run" by federal authority. This correspondent under the date of Dec. 3, says:

"The Tennessee Republicans are to be represented here, during the coming session of Congress, by several prominent gentlemen from Nashville and other places in the State, who have been selected to present to the public men here the condition of affairs in their State. The Tennessee members are a unit in the denunciation of the conduct of the Tennessee Legislature, and the policy by which they obtained power."

The following further extract from the same correspondent, will show the character of the representations which are being made in Washington by the distinguished Tennessee Republicans now there:

"It is stated that they are systematically, though cautiously, repealing the laws by which equal rights to all the citizens of the State have been guaranteed. Recently an attempt was made to repeal the law protecting the colored citizens in their right to sit on juries or hold office; thirty-one votes out of seventy-two were obtained for the repeal, but the law is practically a dead letter. The Legislature has just re-enacted the old vagrant law in an offensive shape, providing that laboring persons, who have not contracted by the first of January for the ensuing year, shall be hired or sold for that period to the highest bidder. By another law the tenant of land is not allowed to remove or sell the crop until the landlord has been paid. The object is to keep colored farmers under the land-owners' heel. A law inflicting penalties on common carriers has been repealed, which protected the colored person in traveling; hereafter he can be charged first-class fare, and put into any sort of car, and no remedy exists. Another law forbids voters from casting their ballots elsewhere than in the district where they live. Hereafter the colored man could go to the county town, where he voted with others of his class, and stood a chance of protection; now he must vote under the eye of his employer, or run the risk of being driven off if he was to vote contrary to his wishes. The representative Republicans assert that every law now on the statute-books of their State sustaining equal rights before the law will be repealed or nullified. Leading papers advocating the election of delegates to the proposed Constitutional Convention who are opposed to negro suffrage, free schools, and other rights now in possession of the people. They assert that more than one-half of the present Legislature are disqualified by the fourteenth amendment and the State constitution. According to the statements of those who hold this view, the principal Northern men who have been active in Tennessee are leaving as rapidly as possible, and the condition of public sentiment and affairs generally grow worse daily. It is the intention to secure protection from Congress, and already a bill to meet the case in view has been prepared, and will be presented in both Houses at an early day."

How the Radicals carried Mississippi.

The Vicksburg Times says the citizens were utterly surprised at the unblushing corruption, intimidation and fraud exercised at the polls on the day of election.

Every avenue to the ballot-box was completely covered by a crowd of men, in utter disregard of the election order of Gen. Ames. That order distinctly declares that no voter, except in the act of depositing his vote, shall stand within thirty feet of the polls. This regulation was wholly ignored yesterday. But this is a mere feather in weight of atrocity perpetrated by the Radical leaders and their tools.

At the Courthouse, one of the principal voting places in this city, the entrances to the building itself (not the voting room) were guarded by colored policemen; and, while the white Radical politicians were permitted to circulate freely within the building and distribute Radical tickets among the voters, the national Republicans were refused admittance by Sheriff Furlong and his subordinate caitsiffs.

On the Sheriff is enjoined the duty of enforcing the election order of Gen. Ames, but at no voting place did we find a single white deputy or policeman. We have had occasion to commend heretofore the good conduct of some of our colored officers of the law in certain places and at proper times, but that they should have been placed in exclusive charge of the peace and good order at the polls, at a time like the present, in an election where both whites and blacks vote, is too flagrant a piece of conduct on the part of those whose duty it was to act otherwise, to be easily passed over.

At another place, one of the most important polls of the city—corner of Washington and Crawford streets—The Rev. School Fund Stringer stood unmolested within six feet of the Board of Commissioners themselves, taking and examining the ballot of every colored voter, and changing the same when his antagonistic highness thought fit. Within the very door of the polling room, touching the very elbow of one of the Commissioners, stood another dusky leader of the Radicals, who a second time examined the ballots of the colored voters, before they could reach the ballot-box.

The State Penitentiary.

The following message from the Governor, in reference to the Penitentiary, was read in the Legislature on Thursday: *Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:* I feel that my duty to the State as well as to the inmates of your State prison, demands that I should call your attention to the peculiar condition of the institution, and urge upon your honorable body that some definite and prompt action be taken in reference to the same before your adjournment for the holidays.

The condition of your State prison is alarming, both from the rapid increase in numbers and for the want of means to support them; and especially so when it is impossible, as your honorable body is well aware, under the present status of the prison, to work the convicts. The report of the Directors, made to the present session of the General Assembly shows: That the number of convicts in the State prison to be 351, and that the State owes to various parties for the support of the same, as set forth in page 36 of said report, the sum of \$49,908.22. Two months have only elapsed, and my information at present is that the number of convicts now confined is 606, and that the debt of the institution amount to \$80,000. Many persons who have extended credit to the State heretofore, by furnishing supplies for the use of prisoners, refuse to do so any longer, and it is becoming very difficult to procure the actual necessities for the institution. I trust that the importance of these facts will be deemed a sufficient cause for my respectfully requesting your early action in this matter.

Respectfully, D. W. G. SENTER,
On motion 500 copies of the message were ordered to be printed.

A bill repealing all laws granting State aid to internal improvements has passed both houses of the Legislature and is now a law.

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Postponed Sheriff Sale.

By virtue of an order of sale, issued from the Circuit Court of Monroe county, Tenn., and to me directed, I will expose to public sale, to the highest bidder, for each of the Court House, in the town of Memphis, on Monday, the 10th day of January, 1870, all the right, title and interest that J. H. Worley has in and to one hundred and twenty acres of land, more or less, adjoining the lands of Wm. Breakbill, on the North; James Breakbill, on the East and the heirs of Abijah Fowler, Jr., on the West, and others, and that of George Worley, on the South, to satisfy a judgment that Wm. Weaver obtained for Joseph Cathcart, against James H. Worley, A. Morrow, and George Worley, to satisfy debt and costs of suit. J. J. CHAPMAN, Sheriff.
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